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A LITTLE FLOWER.

*A little flower lies on the page before him,
Found years ago upon an April slope,
When life was rosy as the wide sky o'er him,
And full of promise as his heart of hope.*

*A ghost of fragrance haunts the faded blossom,
Its memory, may be, of a summer fled,
And he remembers her who wore it on her bosom,
And said its soul would live when she was dead.*

*"For flowers have souls," she said, "and live forever.
Immortal things, somewhere their heaven is,
And, though they turn to dust, they perish never."
Her brain was full of quaint conceits like this.*

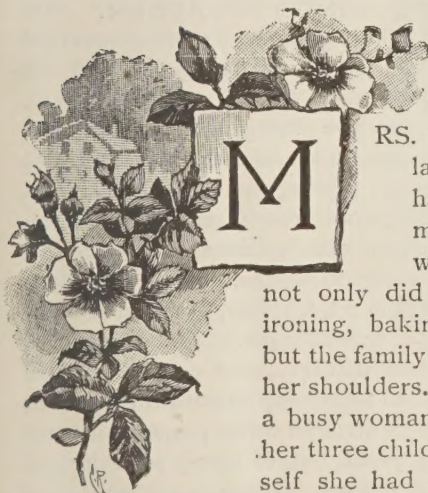
*What wizard's spell is in this withered flower?
He sees her face, he hears the voice so sweet,
And heaven is round him for one little hour,
The hour of memory, beautiful as fleet.*

*He sees a hillside slope, with green grass growing
About the grave where she laid down to rest,
And hears the summer breezes coming, going,
And sees the sunset purple all the west.*

*And then he thinks her soul was like this flower,
Sweet with the fragrance of a love so true
That, though she died, it haunts each passing hour,
And will be with him, all his waiting through.*

Eben E. Rexford.

HOW SHE HELPED.



MRS. ROSE was the wife of a laboring man; she worked hard to keep the household machinery running, for she was maid-of-all-work. She

not only did the housework, washing, ironing, baking, sweeping and dusting, but the family sewing, too, devolved upon her shoulders. You may well think her a busy woman, for she was that, for with her three children, her husband and herself she had quite a family to care for.

The winter of '93-4 was particularly hard; Mr. Rose had been out of employment and this had not made him pleasanter to live with,—let us hope more from lack of thought than lack of heart, though it does seem as though if the heart was just right it would prompt to kind and generous treatment of those nearest, at least. Mr. Rose was only a common man, and did not always think of the comforts of others. He spent what money he earned without thinking that Mrs. Rose might have spent it to better advantage. Indeed Mrs. Rose seldom had a dollar to spend, which is a little trying to the feminine soul,—at least when that feminine had once been self-supporting. Mrs. Rose had been a factory hand, but she had earned a certain sum which was her own, and although her income was not large it

had been regular, and she always managed to dress neatly and have a little money in her pocket, too. But after her marriage she had felt too independent to ask for money, and as Mr. Rose thought himself a good "provider," he did not realize that she had any just cause for complaint. She did not complain, mind you, but she felt chafed and harassed at first, and then finally grew despondent, and from despondency she passed to resignation, and then her children came, and being a true mother she forgot herself in her love for them and thus nerved herself from time to time to ask for money to meet their needs. But as I say, the winter of '93-4 had been a particularly hard one, and as Mr. Rose had been out of work Mrs. Rose knew full well that he could not meet the family necessities. What she could do, more than she was already doing, was a question over which she studied day in and day out. She sewed some for those of her neighbors who could afford to hire, washed and ironed for others, and upon one occasion even left home for awhile to take care of a sick woman. This latter task found her engaged when spring came with its fitful days of sunshine, of storm, and wind, and snow. She went home frequently to see that all was well and to attend to certain work that could not very well be managed by those whom she had left, and for whom her loving, generous heart ever prompted her to renewed effort. On one of these visits (?) little Janie came running in with a yellow crocus in her hand, exclaiming in childish glee, "See, mommy, see, the pitty fower!"

"Surely, surely," responded the mother, taking the flower from the little outstretched hand, and placing it in a tiny tumbler. "When I go back I must see if there are more and take some to Mrs. Toulon, the poor sick lady," she said with kindly thought. "It might cheer her up a bit."

So when she went back to the sick-room, she took a bunch of the pretty blossoms, harbingers of spring's coming. Mrs. Rose entered the sick-room softly, and placing the blossoms in a silver vase put them on a stand by the sick woman's bedside. The woman had been very ill and seemed to care little whether or not she rallied from her sickness; she had been bereaved of her husband and one precious child,—an only one—by a terrible railroad accident and when the news came it utterly prostrated her. Mrs. Rose had been unceasing in her care, and friends had come and gone in kindly sympathy. Mrs. Toulon's mother had come to stay with her stricken daughter, but the sick one had not seemed to take note of anything. Soon after Mrs. Rose returned Mrs. Toulon opened her eyes wearily and they fell upon the freshly gathered blooms; she looked at them wistfully, and Mrs. Rose took a few and placed them gently in her hand. They seemed to touch a tender chord in the grief-stricken woman's heart and the tears that had refused to come before fell freely. "Ah, she will be better now," Mrs. Rose thought to herself. Mrs. Ray (Mrs. Toulon's mother) came in and noted the change too, and the daughter recognized her. Soon a natural sleep came to the sick one and she lay there with the yellow crocus held close in her weak, white hand. She looked a little disappointed when she woke and found the blossoms withered. "Just like my lost hopes," she whispered, and again the tears came from her over-charged heart.

"She loves the crocus blossoms," said Mrs. Ray, "and she must have them. Where did you get them, Mrs. Rose?"

"Oh, Janie, my little girl, found them in the big garden at home," she answered, "And there will be plenty more, too."

"I will go and see Janie," said Mrs. Ray, "and perhaps I can make some arrangement to have the flowers brought fresh every day."

"Tom could bring them," said Mrs. Rose. "He goes to school, but he could start early and bring the blossoms along on his way."

Mrs. Ray, ever a kindly woman, went to the humble home of Mrs. Rose. She knew the Rose family were poor, but she had not dreamed how poor until she had called at the house; the children were alone, and in their childish way told many things. Mrs. Ray was not inquisitive, but she felt that perhaps here was an opportunity to help a needy family, and she was always looking out for just such opportunities. She arranged with Tom to bring the flowers as long as they lasted and agreed to pay a good, fair price for them, and allow him something extra for delivering the flowers.

Mrs. Rose did not dream of receiving compensation for the flowers and was much surprised on her next visit home to learn of the bargain. Tom was very proud and happy with the share which he received for delivering the flowers and hoped they would last long enough for him to get himself a new book and Janie some shoes. Mrs. Rose kissed the boy, for he showed the right spirit, thinking of his sister's needs as well as his own. Mr. Rose was searching for work and was beginning to realize how hard it is to have no money to call one's own.

Mrs. Toulon gained steadily and it was not long before the doctor thought it best for her to ride daily. She gained rapidly and took a new interest in humanity. She had never realized before how much suffering there is in the world, and when she learned how much Mrs. Rose had done for her, she longed to help her more than the stipend of wages already paid. Mrs. Rose was at home again, and what she had earned, together with the money paid for the flowers had enabled her to pay for the things absolutely necessary. They must have food, but the weather was getting warmer and they could get along without many clothes; the good woman studied ways and means so carefully and managed so well that Mr. Rose was astonished.

One day while driving, Mrs. Ray brought Mrs. Toulon to see her nurse. Mrs. Rose welcomed them with kindly dignity, and as they were going to the carriage Mrs. Toulon noted the large old-fashioned garden that had been neglected; but still there were many tulips and hyacinths in bloom amid the neglect.

"Why couldn't we start a flower mission?" said Mrs. Ray to her daughter, as they drove slowly home.

"What? How?" asked the younger woman, who had been lost in retrospective thought; for she could not yet forget her terrible loss or cease to grieve for her loved ones so rudely snatched away.

"Why, we could buy flowers of Mrs. Rose and distribute them among the sick and needy ones in the city."

"The flowers helped me so much," sighed Mrs. Toulon, "if I could only help others to even a slight respite from care or sorrow it would be the dearest wish of my life," and her voice grew tremulous with unshed tears.

"Your dearest wish shall be gratified, daughter," replied Mrs. Ray. "Tomorrow we will go again to Mrs. Rose and see if she will sell us the flowers, and the doctor, perhaps, can tell us where to take them, for he goes so much among the poor and needy."

A more astonished woman than Mrs. Rose would have been hard to find after Mrs. Ray and her daughter had left her the following day. "To think that the tangled old garden is going to furnish us with bread."

Mr. Rose came home that night utterly discouraged; his efforts had failed again and he could find no work. The rent would soon be due and he did not know where to turn or what to do. Mrs. Rose told him of the good news and he seemed to take heart, and after talking awhile relapsed into silence. Finally he said, "Wife, I wonder if we couldn't straighten up the garden a bit? We shall keep the place awhile I hope, and mayhap if I do not get other work we can do something with it."

Mr. Rose was not a man to consult his wife about his projects and she felt surprised, but smiled a kindly approval. "It would take your time and thought anyway, and that will be better than thinking and worrying, and perhaps it will yield us vegetables as well as flowers."

The next day Mr. Rose was up betimes and at work in the garden. Mrs. Rose furnished money to have it plowed and soon the soft, brown mold, that had so long lain fallow, was made into neat garden beds. The grape vines were trimmed, the straggling strawberry plants that had survived in spite of neglect, were carefully transplanted, the tangle of raspberries was reduced to a condition more conducive to growth, while the old-fashioned flowers were spaded about, and what could be transplanted were arranged attractively. Soon the green tops of the lettuce showed above the ground, while the early radishes grew in a way to astonish the children.

The garden was not finished when Mr. Rose secured work elsewhere. That was a happy day for the Rose family, but their prosperity had only begun. Mrs. Rose and the children worked all their spare time in the garden and were benefited by the work. Tom took the fresh vegetables to the city near and sold them to customers; they soon learned to expect the bright-faced boy with his heavily laden basket of fresh, crisp vegetables, and he could readily have disposed of double the

quantity. The flower mission, too, grew apace, and after the tulips and hyacinths were gone, along came the flowering almonds with their boughs so loaded with their faintly pink flowers that the twigs could hardly be seen. There were many lilies of the valley in the grass and these were gathered in quantities; indeed the early owner of the place must have been a lover of flowers, for there were so many left after years of neglect.

Gradually the little place grew more homelike. Janie, Grace and Tom were clothed better. Mrs. Rose lost the anxious look from her face, and Mr. Rose grew hospitable and pleasant. He did not spend his own money now, but threw it into his wife's lap, saying "Here, wife, you can get as much again for this as I can,—spend it as you see fit." Mrs. Rose would flush with pleasure at this praise and felt amply repaid for the years of inappreciation. That fall Mr. and Mrs. Rose had a serious talk; they were planning to buy the place on which they lived, and after a great deal of figuring with a pencil that often needed sharpening, they decided to try to make the purchase. Whether they will succeed or not remains to be seen, but if energy, perseverance and good management can accomplish the task, it will be done. Mrs. Rose feels that the hard times have only revealed to them a way out of their distresses,—and it is true that the trials of life only serve to brighten the pathway, in time, if they are received in the right spirit. It is only by much and severe polishing that the diamond is brought to show its greatest luster.

ROSE SEELYE-MILLER.

* * *

MY WINDOW GARDEN.

THIS photograph was taken several years since. The cycas, and its companion plant, the *Monstera deliciosa* or *Philodendron pertusum*, are more than twenty years old, and more symmetrical than when photographed. The cycas made fifteen new fronds last summer; the monstera makes five leaves in summer, and as many in winter, if kept growing. Each leaf is $2\frac{1}{2} \times 3$ feet, with foot stalk about the same length. The leaves are tough and leathery, and can be turned aside when necessary to pass through the window to arrange other plants. It is a climbing plant, but is rarely seen in private collections. There were scores of cycads and other fine palms in the exhibit in the horticultural building at the Columbian Exposition, but I failed to find one monstera.

The plant at once attracts attention, both for the luxuriance of its foliage and the manner in which the leaves are deeply slitted and perforated with numerous long holes. It is a native of the East Indies, where it climbs upon trees by means of the aerial roots which it emits from all parts of the flexible stem. The roots failing to find a friendly tree, into

which to thrust themselves, extend downwards, penetrate the earth and sprout up, renewing the plant, thus enabling one to have it down and back, as it outgrows the window. The young leaves condense moisture during the night, which hangs and drops from their many points.

It belongs to the same family as the calla, and resembles it in the manner of flower; also the new leaves come up through the stalk of the last leaf, tightly rolled up, growing several inches in a day, and when about a foot long the points turn straight down, pulling the base of the leaf out of its sheath as its foot stalk lengthens, looking not unlike the ribs of a skeleton, the points being connected only by a thread. When it has attained full size and substance, it gradually rises nearly to a horizontal position, remaining thus until with the weight of years it again gently, but finally, bows toward the earth,—still retaining its glossy green color.

The flowers, like the calla, are surrounded by a large spathe, are greenish white and very fragrant. Experiments have shown that this plant, like many others of the same family, emits an appreciable amount of heat at flowering time, the air within the spathe being found to be 15° warmer than the outside temperature. The fruit has something the appearance of a long green pine cone, and when ripe is edible, and has a pineapple flavor.

DESCRIPTION OF WINDOW.

When building we wished to make a window that would at once be a congenial home for plants, both in summer and winter, with the least care. To this end we constructed it with a cement floor, slightly sloping back to carry off surplus water through a pipe into the cellar drain. On this was put three bushels of fresh charcoal and on that a load of woods earth. I intended to put plants directly into this, but find them less troublesome to remove when left in pots,—the monstera and a few ivies next the wall being fixtures. The entire surface was then covered with green moss from a shady nook and evergreen ferns of different sizes set naturally here and there, giving the whole a cool, restful look. Sometimes I secure a pretty stump, entirely covered with lichens and moss, tiny ferns, a clump of violets or other wildlings, and put this at one side of center,—and it requires no great tact to arrange the moss as neatly as if it had

grown there, stumps and all. With the monstera in the center and the cycas in front on edge of carpet, a vase of blooming plants at each glass, three or four hanging baskets, ivies on the walls and festooned about the arch, a few foliage plants or large specimen ferns in vases at each side farthest from the glass, there is variety giving better effect than twice as many pots would do. A few nice shell and corals distributed among the ferns, with large rocks and mineral specimens arranged along the margin as a sly hint to "Please keep off the grass," give a pretty finish to the whole.

I aim to have different bloom each winter, but cannot improve on the carpet of moss. When renewing it each spring I



MY WINDOW GARDEN.

exchange the winter ferns for the best summer kinds.

As the walls are of brick I wash both windows and plants with a spray as often as desired, leaving it looking as fresh and pretty as a lawn after a spring shower.

If the waves of the ocean are never lost, but continue to widen through all time, how much more shall the joy and gladness in the human soul enlarge our hearts and broaden our minds in contemplation of the Creator of all good and beautiful things, and of which we see and comprehend but an infinitesimal part.

SARAH A. PLEAS.

Dunreith, Ind.

AN AFTERNOON WITH MRS. SNOOKS.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ—Mrs. Snooks, Mrs. Hansel's sister; Clara, a young lady of rather more education and culture than she will meet with among her husband's relations, is Mrs. Hansel's son's wife, lately married. This afternoon Mrs. Hansel takes her new daughter-in-law to spend the afternoon with her sister, Mrs. Snooks; Mrs. Snooks' mother makes her home with the Snooks; Milly is Mrs. Snooks' grown-up daughter who does not hear well; a neighbor, Mrs. Hochbäumer, happens in.

Mrs. Snooks is genuinely beaming,—beaming with pleasure because it is so kind in her sister to bring Clara to see her. She hopes Clara keeps well?

"Yes? Well, now that is strange; never sick? La, I wish Milly and me could say as much. But dear me! What a time we have had. I've had a dizziness in my head, and felt so bad like; and Milly, she's been a complaining so much, first one thing and then another, and seem's if nothin' does us any good. We've been takin' medicine all the time; the doctor left something new jus' last week, but we neither of us seem to pick up much."

Mrs. Snooks' mother could scarcely wait until her daughter should end her recital,—she was so eager to begin her own. They all wished to be friendly and sociable with Clara, hence they directed their conversation to her:

"You never have 'rumatiz,' I reckon, do you, Clara? No? Now, do tell! Well, you may be glad you can say so. I've been so po'rly and so crippled with 'rumatiz' that I can scarcely get about. First 'twould be in my shoulders, then shoot, like, down my back, and I hadn't much appetite. I've been takin' powders, and all sorts o' medicine, but I tell the doctor I guess he's turnin' 'homopath' and's too

stingy with his doses. Do you keep right well now, Judy?" (Mrs. Hansel's maiden name was Judy Miller.)

"Why, yes, mother, except I've had a cold the last week."

"I hope you're takin' somethin' for it,—for you know, Judy, a cold is likely to run into pneumonia if it isn't checked. People air so careless. Mrs. Hochbäumer, you've got right well ag'in, have you? And your family's well?"

"Yes, thanks, we're well's common."

There were busy fingers plying knitting needles and doing plain sewing, during the conversation,—except Clara, who was making a dainty little doily.

Clara was amused by the quaint queries concerning the state of health, and at the

persistence with which the subject was discussed, for the afternoon was mostly consumed by inquiries about all the neighbors, "how they were," "what doctor they had," and repeated allusions to their own aches and pains.

"Well, dear, did you have a good time," said the young husband to his wife upon her return.

"Charming, George; I have learned a great deal this afternoon, and if Portia in her time, could be so bold as to do what she did, I am going to be daring enough to venture something, too."

"What, now; are you going to get a new patent medicine for grandmother's birthday present?"

"Not exactly, but 'precious near it!' I'm going to have such a garden, George, as never was seen in the whole country. A vegetable and a flower garden; and I shall not only tell you how it is to be done, but I intend to work in it myself. Why, it was dreadful to hear so much complaining,—such detailed accounts of sickness; it nearly made me ill, from very sympathy. I'll ward off such troubles by working in the garden, and perhaps when these poor, ailing creatures find me working in the blessed outdoor air, and see me the picture of health, they will follow my example and not sit in dark rooms and take drugs, and knit and sew all their spare time. It doesn't pay to knit stockings any more, unless it is merely for past-time; and it is a wicked sin to sit about from morning till night without taking a peep out of doors. No wonder the doctor 'can't seem to get no medicine' that will cure them. One might as well try to keep a leaking barrel full as to think of curing one who is all the while out of harmony with nature. No, sir! this afternoon has made me resolve to keep clear of ill-health. I intend to absorb enough sunshine through the summer to help me tide over the winter. People give up so easily, it seems to me; they imagine, so often, they are sick, when they are perhaps only despondent, and then they think about themselves, and the first thing we know they are down sick. If they always had something pleasant and interesting to think about, it would be a great help. And what is pleasanter than to look over new catalogues and plan out the prospective garden; to dream of the delicious vegetables, and the beautiful flowers. Oh, I am cured of all future complaining about aches and pains,—I promise to be a model of health. Aunt Snooks, and grandmother, too, could do more than they imagine if they could only be induced into it in some way, and my scheme is to lead them unawares to take an interest in the out-door spring work. Old children, as well as young, wee ones, are better for making dirt pies, and you shall see that I am a magician of no mean power!"

MRS. W. A. KELLERMAN.

Columbus, Ohio.

THE ALYSSUM.

THE *Alyssum* or "madwort" is a genus of dwarf hardy perennial cruciferous plants. They are low growing with soft grayish foliage, thriving in almost any soil and situation, but doing best in one that is deep, moderately enriched, and not unusually retentive of moisture. They also prefer an open, sunny situation, as they are sun-loving plants. The flowers are produced during the spring and early summer months in the greatest profusion. In color they are bright yellow, and are borne in broad, flat heads. All the species are well adapted for rock work, and are excellent plants for the mixed flower border, where they will produce the most satisfactory results if given a deep, moderately enriched soil and sufficient space in which to properly develop themselves. A slight covering of evergreen or other branches applied during the winter months will also be decidedly beneficial. Propagation can be effected by seeds or cuttings and the herbaceous species by a careful division of the older plants, and this operation should be performed as early in the spring as possible—just before the plants start into growth. The seed can be sown at any time during the early spring months, or as soon as gathered on a nicely prepared border in a partially shaded situation; sow thinly, cover slightly, and as soon as the young plants are large enough to handle let them be transplanted into another bed or border and placed in rows about six inches apart each way. During the summer months they should be kept clean and free from weeds, liberally watered whenever necessary, and given a mulch of coarse littery manure as soon as the ground becomes frozen. Early the ensuing spring they should be removed to their permanent positions in the mixed flower border or rockery. Of the several species in cultivation the following are the most desirable and distinct:

A. ARGENTEUM.—Popularly known as the "silvery madwort," grows about one foot in height and produces its yellow flowers in clustered heads during the months of April and May. It also blooms more or less throughout the summer months. It is a native of Switzerland, and is of a dense habit of growth with showy silvery foliage.

A. GEMONENSE.—The German madwort is a native of Europe, and as the plant is of a shrubby habit grows about one foot in height. It blooms during the months of April and May, the lemon yellow flowers being produced in broad, showy heads.

A. SAXATILE.—Popularly known as gold dust or gold thread, is a native of the mountains of southern Europe, and

*The Sweet Alyssum formerly designated as *Alyssum maritimum* is not retained by modern botanists in the genus *alyssum*, but is given the name *Koenigia maritima*.—Ed.

in cultivation grows about one foot in height. It has grayish green foliage, and the handsome yellow fragrant flowers are produced in such profusion as to entirely cover the plant during the season of bloom, which is during the months of May and June. This is one of the choicest of hardy perennial plants.

A. SERPYLLIFOLIUM.—Is a native of Italy. It is well adapted for rock work on account of its dwarf habit of growth, which is four or five inches in height. It has very small silvery foliage and bright lemon yellow flowers which are freely produced during August and September.

A. WIERSBECKII.—A native of Russia and grows about eighteen inches in height and is of a coarser form than the other species on account of its rough foliage. Its flowers are produced in dense heads and are of a deep yellow color; they are borne in the greatest profusion from July to September.

CHARLES E. PARNELL.

Floral Park, N. Y.

GARDEN HINTS.

Foil the striped bugs by placing over your vines a thin covering of cotton batting well tucked down around the edge and held with a little soil drawn over. Mr. Bug does not like to get entangled in the fibers.

Feed currant worms liberally with powdered white hellebore while the bushes are wet with dew or rain.

Scatter ground coffee where ants infest.

Frequently wash the tea rose with suds and rinse with clear water. Give liquid manure once a week, but see that the soil is not dry when applied.

Fuchsias, begonias, primulas and violets require little sunshine; roses more and cacti most of all.

Give oleanders, when growing, plenty of water and frequent douches.

It is said that the sea onion lily, growing in the living room, will prevent malarial fevers, but no one is obliged to believe it.

Water the calla and cereus with hot water to encourage bloom. Never move a cereus after the buds are set, as it will cause them to drop. Do not allow any one to handle them for the same reason.

One or two plants well kept will prove more satisfactory than a hundred crowded into small space and poorly cared for.

Do not fail to place a few hardy plants and shrubs along the roadside to cheer the weary traveler. An objection to fruit trees along the roadside is that they would harbor fungous and insect pests, and, as in that location they would be apt to be neglected, they would be breeding places from which to infest the orchards of the neighborhood.

Have a bed of pinks and a chamomile bed for the dear old grandmother's comfort and cheer.

Forget not the cemetery lot when ordering your plants. Let the resting places of the loved ones present a pleasant aspect.

Give the little ones a flower plot and teach them to keep it tidy. E. W. P.

A CHAPTER ON CELERY.



CELERY has now become one of the chief articles of produce north, south, east and west. It is regarded as one of the greatest boons in the vegetable kingdom which God has bestowed on mankind. Its life and health-giving, as well as health-preserving, properties, are well known, acknowledged and felt throughout the civilized world, or at least as far as commerce is capable of transporting it.

A general idea prevails that celery can only be grown on reclaimed marshes or swamps. This is a mistake. Of course it naturally does best on such lands, but such soil is not indispensable by any means to being grown to perfection. Any piece of ground capable of producing a good crop of corn or potatoes (except a sandy hill) will grow celery, provided it is well enriched with good heavy manure early in spring, and plowed in deeply and well mixed in with a spring tooth cultivator, and kept stirred lengthwise and crosswise every two weeks until it is time to set the plants, which in this latitude should be done from July 1st to August 15th. Select, if possible, a rainy or cloudy day, or just before or immediately after a good shower. One thing is absolutely necessary in order to succeed, and that is to have strong, healthy and stocky plants. If you use spindling or weak plants you will surely fail. Rather pay 50 cents per hundred for strong plants with an abundance of fibrous roots than take weak or spindling ones as a gift.

If the celery is to be stored away for winter use the rows need not be more than a foot or a foot and a half apart, as all that is necessary is to keep the soil well stirred around the plants until they get a good start. They will naturally grow straight and upright (and it will do you good to watch them) and by fall they will be from two to three feet tall if you have done your part. Remember one thing: Never stir the soil around the plants or touch them when the leaves are wet or damp, as this will cause the celery to decay; this applies to the digging up of the celery in the fall, also. The best varieties to select for keeping through the winter are Golden Self-Blanching and the Giant Paschal. These varieties are unsurpassed in flavor and beautiful appearance when bleached.

The best way to store it for winter is to dig narrow trenches, say a foot wide, and deep enough so that when the celery stands upright in the bottom of the pit (with the roots on) the tops will be level with the ground. Put on the covering immediately, which is made by two twelve inch boards nailed together, so as to form a right angle, thus: \wedge . Leave the ends open until the approach of cold weather. When severe freezing weather sets in add more covering in the shape of coarse

manure, marsh hay or anything to keep the celery from freezing. Stop the ends up with hay, but open again on mild days to admit fresh air and also for the escape of foul air which has collected in the pit. The celery which you put in first should be ready for market by Thanksgiving, when it finds a ready sale.

Many who read this will probably remember seeing that bunch of White Plume celery at the Detroit exposition a few years ago. A bunch of six stalks weighed twenty-eight pounds, and its was four feet three inches.

What little I know about growing celery as well as other things, I can assure you I have learned from sad experience, and if I have been the means of giving any information to others I shall feel well paid.

M. WETTERLING.

Ionia, Mich.

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DECORATIVE PLANTS FOR THE LAWN.

THERE is a growing demand for large decorative plants for use on the lawn, especially those which give a tropical effect. When this effect can be obtained by the use of hardy plants, which can be left in the open ground during winter, it is much better, as the plants thus increase in size and beauty each year, not being given a set-back by being taken up in fall and replanted in spring.

Foremost among the plants of this class are those of the Yucca family, of which there are several varieties. Yucca filamentosa or Adam's needle is the best known and probably the most satisfactory one for general planting. It has tough, lance-shaped leaves, which grow in a low, compact cluster. The foliage is almost evergreen in the north. From this clump of foliage the blossom stems rise to a height of from three to seven feet, where they form a large pyramid of drooping flowers of a creamy white color. The plant remains in bloom a long time and presents a beautiful appearance. It can be easily grown from seed, but takes about three years to grow to blooming size.

Another sort called variegated Adam's needle has very handsome gold and green striped leaves. It is also hardy and makes a beautiful contrast when planted with the plain green variety. As the variegated sort is scarce and harder to propagate the price remains high.

Caladium esculentum, or elephant's ear, is a very effective plant on the lawn when massed, or a single specimen used. Its leaves are immense, being often three feet long by half that width, and of a very tough and leathery appearance. The bulbs grow to immense size, and can be stored in dry sand in a pit or cellar in winter. To hasten growth in the spring plant the bulbs in moist earth or sand in the house or hot-bed, and get them well started before planting time. They re-

quire considerable moisture, and it is well to plant them in a moist situation when possible.

Xerophyllum asphodeloides, or turkey's beard, is a hardy plant, one not often seen in gardens, but when it becomes better known will be much appreciated. The leaves are from one and one-half to three feet long, while the width is not more than a quarter of an inch. The blooming season is in June and the flowers are creamy white, growing in large clusters and remaining in bloom a long time. For indoor decoration the spikes of blossoms are grand, and they remain perfect when placed in water, sometimes as long as ten days.

Some of the banana family have proved fine plants for decorative use, being either grown in large tubs and placed on the lawn or bedded out in the ground. Musa ensete or Abyssinian banana is the best known. It has magnificent foliage, the leaves being very long and broad, of a beautiful shade of green and having a wide midrib of red down the center. When bedded out in summer it makes a wonderful growth, often from eight to ten feet high.

Banana Cavendishi is a newer sort which bids fair to eclipse the former. Its immense leaves, three or four feet long by one and a half to two feet wide, being a lovely shade of green, spotted and mottled with red. Both of these plants can be raised from seed, and they grow very fast. They can be wintered in the cellar or kept growing in the house.

Ricinus or Castor Oil bean family produces a number of very fine specimens, some sorts growing to a height of twelve to fourteen feet; other sorts are more dwarf, but all have very beautiful foliage. They are mostly used for massing in beds or borders; or as a screen to hide an unsightly building or fence. A new sort just introduced, R. Zanzibarensis, seems likely to go ahead of all others in point of size. Its leaves are sometimes two and a half feet across, deeply lobed and cleft, and having a distinct metallic luster. The ordinary sorts range in color through green, bronze, maroon and purple to almost black, and when all kinds are massed together they make a fine display.

Amaranthus is another class of plants much used for this purpose, being of handsome appearance; the foliage is finely cut and of the most brilliant colors.

They will grow anywhere in any kind of soil, but to produce the finest colors poor soil is best. One variety called Fountain plant grows in the shape of a large fountain and has green foliage finely marked with orange, bronze and crimson. Sunrise is perhaps the finest one of the amaranthus family, having at the top of the plant a bright glowing crimson while the lower part is a very dark maroon.

There are many other plants suitable for decorative purposes, but those mentioned are the best for general planting, being easy of culture and making a fine display all the season.

Letter Box.

In this department we shall be pleased to answer any questions relating to Flowers, Vegetables and Plants, or to publish the experiences of our readers. JAMES VICK.

Shamrock.

Could you tell me through the Letter Box something about the Irish shamrock, its botanical name, etc., and where I could get one? I suppose this does not come within the province of a florist, but I am at loss as to where to apply for information.

Pontiac.

E. E. E.

In some parts of Ireland the term Shamrock is applied to a species of clover; in England it is given to the oxalis. Any trifoliate leaf will serve the purpose as shamrock.

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The Little Gem Calla.

In answer to J. C., in January Magazine, I will give my experience with the Little Gem calla. I bought about four or five dozen bulbs for my customers and for my own use, all of which bloomed and grew beyond my expectations. I put the bulbs in eight-inch pots, set them in a dark place for about six weeks, so as to let the roots get well started, then I brought them to the light, and as soon as they started to grow I commenced to give them hot baths. I put the pot in boiling hot water till the earth got quite hot, and then let it drain well and put it in the sunlight; I repeated this about twice a week. I find by inquiry that all my customers who followed my plan had as good results as I did.

G. E. G.

Kingfisher, O. T.

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Geraniums with White-edged Leaves.

Please tell me the name of the geranium which have white-edged leaves.

Is there any geranium known which has wholly white leaves?

E. T. P.

Beverly, Mass.

Bijou and Madame Salleroi are two of the best varieties of geranium with leaves variegated with white.

There is no variety with wholly white leaves; sports of this kind are sometimes produced, but they have not sufficient vitality to be perpetuated.

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The Charmer Pea.

Our family are so "charmed" with the Charmer Pea that I feel constrained to say a few words in its favor to the readers of the MAGAZINE who have never grown this most valuable pea. To those who have, no words are necessary. Purchasing one of the 10 cent packages, when it was first brought out by James Vick's Sons, we sowed the seeds in the garden; from these we secured enough to have some for the table the next year. In flavor and sweetness they were pronounced by many visitors the best they had ever tasted. They are very prolific, and we used them every day during their season, which is longer than that of any variety we ever had, and still gathered enough from the ripened pods for seed for ourselves and friends. We intend planting them at intervals this season, depending on this variety alone, with Vick's Extra Early for the extreme early crop.

MRS. M. F.

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Worms on Nasturtiums—Carnation planted out.

For the past two years I have been troubled with a worm on my nasturtium leaves. It is just the color of the stems, an inch to an inch and a half long, and very destructive. Is there anything which will destroy the worm, or any way it can be gotten rid of?

Should a carnation be cut back when placed in the garden, after growing all winter, even if it has not bloomed freely?

E. W. C.

The worms on nasturtiums can be destroyed by syringing the infested plants with solution of kerosene emulsion. The method of preparing the emulsion will be found on another page. By applying the liquid with a syringe it can be forced to all parts of the plants and wet all the

foliage. If the first application is not entirely successful the operation should be repeated after a day or two, and twelve hours later syringe the plants briskly with clear water.

A carnation in the condition described should be cut back and planted out in good soil and be hoed about and encouraged in every way to make a good growth and be ready for taking up and potting the last of September. Remove any buds that may appear before the first of August.

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Potato Flowers.

How can I tell the pistillate and staminate flowers of the potato? Will all potato flowers pollenate and form balls?

E. L. G.

Glenwood, Iowa.

The flowers of the potato are perfect,—that is, each flower possesses both stamens and pistil. Some varieties of potatoes bloom much more freely than others; there are various causes for paucity of bloom, such, for instance, as great tuber producing power, whereby the reproductive energies of the plant are expended in this manner for its continuance, to the detriment of seed production; again a variety may have been produced through so long a course of years by the tuber that it has in a great measure lost its tendency to bear seeds. When potato plants produce flowers that do not, in their turn, perfect themselves by seed production, it is not because the flowers have not the essential organs, but on account of some peculiarity connected with them which prevents it. It is easy enough to tell the stamens from the pistil; the stamens, five in number, adhere to the tube of the flower; the pistil is the central organ. In this connection we would again call attention to the very excellent manual entitled "Plant Breeding," by L. H. Bailey. All who are interested in crossing plants should have this valuable and practical guide to crossing and hybridizing.

LARGE YIELD OF POTATOES.

In the Letter Box department of our February number we gave an answer to the question, Shall we plant Potatoes this Spring. This answer appears to have attracted some attention, at least it has set one person to thinking, if we may judge from the following extract from a letter sent us:

In your Magazine for February you say in substance, "It costs as much labor to fit the ground for a variety of potatoes that will yield only seventy-five to one hundred bushels, as it does for one that will yield six hundred or more." What variety can you furnish that will do anything like this? If I could be sure of such a yield I shall have that variety sure, if it would be good for anything for the table.

J. T. F.

Otisco Valley, N. Y.

It is remarkable that our correspondent should attempt to repeat our remarks, even placing the language in quotation marks, and yet have it quite different both in expression and meaning from what was originally published. The original paragraph is as follows:

It requires the same amount of labor in prepara-

tion, planting and cultivating for a crop of seventy-five to a hundred bushels to the acre as it does for one of six hundred or more.

In this statement it will be noticed that nothing is said about the size of the crop depending upon the variety of potato, while in that, which our correspondent gives as our language, the seed variety is the only factor mentioned as governing the size of the crop. We had no intention of conveying such an idea and took especial pains not to do so. Immediately preceding the statement, as correctly quoted above, stands the following sentence: "Those who make a marked success in raising this crop must not be satisfied with anything less than the best varieties, the best preparation of land and the best culture." The purport of this language is to indicate the necessity of thorough preparation of the soil, with all that may be implied in it, such as drainage, manuring, plowing, fining and planting; and then the best of cultivation of the growing crop; and, as well, the selection of prolific seed varieties. Our correspondent appears to have fixed his mind upon the seed variety as the principal thing in giving a large yield, whereas it is only one of the factors, though no doubt an important one.

It may not be necessary to show that no exaggeration was intended in suggesting a crop of six hundred bushels, though it was not supposed that it would be taken as a precise statement, and, in fact, we give our correspondent credit for accepting our language as it was intended in this case,—an indication of a maximum amount,—for he asks the question, "What variety can you furnish that will do anything like this?"

We have not at hand, to refer to, the records of all the large potato crops of this country, and can now name but few instances. First we refer to the statement of W. VanHooser, on page 63 of the same February number, where he says that on one-third of an acre he harvested 193 bushels of the Maggie Murphy, or at the rate of 579 bushels per acre.

In 1875 the Messrs. Bliss, of New York, offered prizes of \$100 each for the largest crops of certain varieties. The crops taking the prizes, and the land occupied by them, were measured before witnesses and duly attested in legal form. D. Steck of Hughesville, Pa., took a prize of \$100 for 416 28-60 bushels per acre, of Extra Early Vermont.

Mrs. M. A. Royce, Home, Tenn., took a prize of \$100 for a crop of 490 bushels to the acre of Compton's Surprise.

A. Rose, Penn Yan, N. Y., took a prize of \$100 for a crop of 593 16-60 bushels per acre with Brownell's Beauty.

Another crop of Brownell's Beauty, by D. Steck, of Hughesville, Pa., took a second prize of \$50 for 537 bushels to the acre.

These crops are sufficient to show the possibilities of potato culture, and those who make the greatest success in it will be those who have keenly in mind what may be done, and earnestly apply themselves to produce the conditions that will give the highest results.

BEGONIAS.

AMONG the very best "all round" house plants are the begonias, especially for warm rooms. The begonias form a large family that sports into a multiplicity of forms; any of these are at least fair to look upon, while many of them are surpassingly beautiful. Among them are a few of those rarest of all plants—bloomers that will flower 365 times in a year, and do this year after year. A bit particular in one or two respects, they are yet the reverse of a "fussy" family, and, best of all, insects do not trouble them.

The tuberous begonias are only adapted for summer display, as they die down and are dormant over winter; Rex begonias, among the most handsome foliage plants in the world, are unfortunately so exacting in their requirements that they are only suited to greenhouse or Wardian case culture; for these reasons we mean by the term begonias in this article, those flowering sorts that are evergreen in habit and that will live in almost any kind of an atmosphere which is above the frost mark.

The begonia most talked about is the Rubra. Florists praise it to the skies; amateurs do no end of private grumbling about it. There is truth on both sides. I have had a rubra that touched the ceiling in two years growth, and that for five years was not once out of bloom—and such bloom! Great, long, wide panicles of the most exquisite colored flowers. I also have a slip from that same wonderful specimen, and at eighteen months old it is less than a foot high, and without a blossom. This sort, I do not hesitate to say, is the most decorative flowering houseplant of to-day, where one has a good specimen. Getting the good specimen is the rub! Old farmers tell us: "Stunt a calf when it is small and you stunt it for always." Substitute rubra for calf, and you will strike the difficulty. First get a healthy young plant, put it in a small pot in the light, woodsy soil it loves so well, and as it grows keep shifting it into pots a size larger. If it grows rapidly until it is fifteen inches or so in height, it seems to get the mastery of the obstinate sulks that seem to be first nature with it. A thrifty plant needs no fussing with. Rubra will stand quite an amount of sunshine, but the others all do much better to have considerable shade, at least through the middle of the day. A warm east or north window suits them exactly. Beware always how you try to introduce them to Jack Frost. They are sworn enemies, and while they will stand trying fluctuations better than most plants, so that they are removed from actual chill, they will not stand the least particle of frost. Snugly ensconced in newspaper night-caps they will go uninjured through a pretty cold night in a

cool room. They can stand almost any amount of heat.

Another thing begonias are very impatient of is manure water. It must be used very weak if at all. They like charcoal, and a lump or two pounded fine and mixed with the soil gives a fine, rich coloring to the leaves. They stand wood soot tea without injury, and this will be found a valuable fertilizer. A good potting soil for these plants is made of two parts loam, two parts leaf mold, one part clear, sharp sand. Something light and loose is to their liking.

LORA S. LA MANCE.

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INSECTS INJURING SHADE TREES.

THE trees of some eastern cities are badly infested with insects, and up to the present time no efficient means have been employed to destroy them. By midsummer, or soon after, the foliage begins to show the effects of insect depredations, and a month later the trees are nearly leafless. Noxious insects left to themselves gradually spread, and with many of them their rapidity of travel by the modern means of locomotion, and dispersion in various ways, is very great. Everywhere insects of some kinds infest the shade trees of the streets and lawns, and, therefore, it is opportune at this time to suggest early preparations to destroy them. Together with circulars on several other subjects we have been lately supplied by the secretary of agriculture with one entitled: "General Work Against Insects Which Defoliate Shade Trees in Cities and Towns." This circular has been prepared by L. O. Howard, entomologist of the department, and gives valuable general instructions in regard to the best manner of combating such insects.

The question of proper work against the insects which affect shade trees in cities and towns naturally divides itself under two heads: (1) What can be efficiently and economically done by city governments? (2) If city or town administrators will not appropriate a small amount of money to carry on work of this kind, what can citizens who are interested in the question of shade trees do?

New York is said to be the only city in the country where an efficient person is employed to keep down the insect pests of the shade trees.

With an intelligent and industrious superintendent of parks, or a city forester, or whatever he may be termed, and the wise expenditure of a comparatively small amount of money each year, the shade trees of any city could be kept green throughout the summer. The amount of money to be expended in this direction would naturally vary with the number of trees to be attended to, as well as with the variety and the size of the trees and the geographical location of the city.

Where the local government will not interest themselves in this matter much can be done by the citizens themselves either singly or by combination. The case is cited of Bridgeport, Conn., where a person has provided himself with several sprayers mounted on carts and makes a business in the months of June

and July of going about and spraying all infected trees. But coöperation is more desirable. A tree-protection league that was established in Washington, last year, is noticed as doing valuable work. Every member of the league pledged himself to destroy all the noxious insects of the trees adjoining his residence.

This was only one of several ways which might be devised to arouse general interest. The average city householder seldom has more than half a dozen street shade trees in front of his grounds, and it would be a matter of comparatively little expense and trouble for any family to keep these trees in fair condition. It needs only a little intelligent work at the proper time. It means the burning of the webs of the fall webworm in May and June; it means the destruction of the larvæ of the elm leaf-beetle about the bases of the elm trees in late June and July; it means the picking off and destruction of the eggs of the tussock moth and the bags of the bag worm in winter, and equally simple operations for other insects, should they become especially injurious. What a man will do for the shade and ornamental trees in his own garden he should be willing to do for the shade trees ten feet in front of his fence.

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PLANTING SWEET PEAS.

In planting sweet peas gardeners vary greatly in the closeness or sparseness of sowing, some dropping the peas about half an inch apart and others giving more room, some two or three and others as much as six inches. In Bulletin III, on Sweet Peas, lately issued by the Agricultural Experiment Station of Cornell University, the writer says:

"The plants also endure dry weather better when thinly planted. We like to have the plants six or seven inches apart in the row."

In our own experience we have tried both thick and thin seeding and had good success with both methods. Thick seeding will do well in a moist season or when there is an opportunity to supply water abundantly in artificial manner, and, perhaps, under these circumstances there is a greater amount of bloom in the same space. At two inches the plants are very satisfactory and grow large and branch freely. The sweet pea is very accommodating in this matter and adapts itself somewhat to circumstances.

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ROOT CROPS FOR STOCK.

Be sure and fit a piece of good land for the root crops that are so nourishing and healthful as cattle feed. The sugar beet and the mangels will yield immensely on good land, if put in in good time and well tended, and no farm crops are more valuable. Cattle thrive on such food in winter when it forms a large part of their rations, and every stock owner should have a good supply. Carrots are particularly desirable for horses, keeping them in good, thrifty condition.

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For onion maggot, mix half a pint of kerosene with wood ashes and sprinkle along the rows twice a week during the season when the fly lays its eggs—latter part of April and May in extreme north, and earlier toward the south.



ROCHESTER, N. Y., MAY, 1896.

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Vick's Monthly Magazine is published at the following rates, either for old or new subscribers.

These rates include postage:

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200,000

Average Monthly Circulation.

Horticultural Proceedings.

The report of the late meeting of the Western New York Horticultural Society appears in its usual neat and attractive form, a pamphlet of 156 pages, with a good index. The accuracy of the reports of this Society are due in a great measure to its earnest and energetic secretary, Mr. John Hall, who records in shorthand all the discussions and impromptu speeches. The valuable character of the report of this Society should be known by fruit growers in every part of the country and the Proceedings, as a neat and compact manual of practical information on live topics, would be found worth many times the cost of membership, which is only one dollar a year. Each member is supplied with a copy of the Proceedings as soon as published.

The President's Address is an able composition, in which he reviews, in a general way, the conditions of fruit culture the past year and offers many valuable suggestions.

Space will not allow of a full, or even a fair, review of the contents of the Proceedings, but as an indication it may be stated that Mr. W. Paddock, of the State Experiment Station, Geneva, N. Y., made a report on the Plant Diseases which had manifested themselves in this region the past year. Similarly, Mr. M. V. Slingerland, of Cornell Experiment Station, reported on the Injurious Insects and the methods of dealing with them.

Recently introduced Foreign Fruits were reported upon by Mr. George Ellwanger. A valuable report was made by the Committee on Garden Vegetables. Mr. George C. Snow, of Penn Yan, reported on Grapes

and Small Fruits, and Mr. George Ellwanger on New Ornamental Trees and Shrubs. Mr. S. A. Beach, of the New York Experiment Station, presented Notes on New or Little Known Plants.

Essays were read as follows:

Crimson Clover, by George T. Powell. Culture of the Dewberry, J. A. Wilcox.

What it Costs to Cultivate and Harvest an Acre of Chautauqua Grapes, John W. Spencer.

Irrigation in Fruit Culture, Hon. J. H. Hale.

How the Experiment Station may help us, Wm. D. Burns.

Pruning and Pruning Tools, George G. Atwood.

The Invisible Friends and Enemies of the Fruit-grower, Prof. J. P. Roberts.

The Business Side of Fruit Selling or Marketing, Hon. J. H. Hale.

Common Errors in the Arrangement of Home Grounds and how to Avoid them, W. W. Parce.

The Evaporated Fruit Industry, B. J. Case.

The Fruit Exhibit at the New York State Fair, H. S. Wiley.

Plum Leaf Spot, S. A. Beach.

The New Strawberry Culture, L. J. Farmer.

Reports were made on the fruit crops and the fruit industry during the past season from twelve counties of Western New York. In connection with each of these essays and reports there was more or less discussion, bringing out many nice points, all of which are reported.

Besides the above, forty or more questions on practical subjects were proposed and discussed, and the information thus elicited is of the highest value to fruit-growers, farmers and gardeners.

Thus it will be seen what a variety of useful topics are treated upon and explained. We believe that we are doing good service to all engaged in fruit culture, no matter where they may be, in inviting them to join this Society, though they may never be able to attend one of its meetings. A copy of the Proceedings received every year will give them valuable information that they can get so well nowhere else.

New Jersey State Horticultural Society.

The receipt of the Proceedings of this live Society for the present year is hereby acknowledged, and, as usual, the reports, essays and discussions are all of much importance and interest, and no one engaged in horticultural pursuits can study them without great benefit.

Book Notes.

WITH THE WILD FLOWERS. By E. M. Harding. The Baker & Taylor Co., New York. \$1.00. With the Flowers, From Pussy Willow to Thistle Down; A Rural Chronicle of our Flower Friends and Foes, describing them under their familiar English names.

Such is the full title of a delightfully

written book which can be read with more than the interest of a romance; and no one can read it without being pleased and instructed. It teaches some of the wonderful ways of plants and the natural relations of plants and insects in the simplest and yet the most fascinating manner. It is handsomely illustrated with engravings. Under the title of "Foes A-field" a number of pages is devoted to the most important of the common poisonous plants. We heartily commend this volume to our readers, and teachers in primary schools will find it very suggestive to enable them to present fresh and attractive subjects to their pupils.

New Advertising Firm.

The well known firm of newspaper advertising agents, Alden & Faxon, Cincinnati, Ohio, has changed the style of the business firm, and will hereafter be known as the Frank H. Alden & Sons Company.

Frank H. Alden, the president of the newly formed company, has been widely known among the newspapers and advertisers for the last twenty-five years.

The old firm of Alden & Faxon has earned a reputation for fair dealings with the newspapers and prompt and accurate service with the advertisers. As is well known, Mr. Faxon has not been connected with the house for a number of years, but the firm name has been carried on by the proprietor, Frank H. Alden, and in admitting his two sons to the company he decided to change the style of the firm as above.—*Cincinnati Tribune*.

That Tired Feeling

Afflicts nearly everyone at this season. Some men and women endeavor temporarily to overcome it by great force of will. But this is unsafe, as it pulls powerfully upon the nervous system, which will not long stand such strain. That tired feeling is a positive proof of

Thin, Impure Blood,

for, if the blood is rich, red, vitalized and vigorous, it imparts life and energy to every nerve, organ and tissue of the body. The necessity of taking Hood's Sarsaparilla for that tired feeling is, therefore, apparent to everyone.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is the One True Blood Purifier. All druggists. \$1

Hood's Pills cure Liver Ills; easy to take, easy to operate. 25c.

INSECT TROUBLES.

SOME people seem to have much greater trouble with insects in their gardens than others. This may be due in some cases to the locality, though why it should be so may not always be easily discovered. A correspondent in Michigan writes that "That the little black ants have got into my flower beds; please tell me how I can destroy them or drive them away."

The method of trapping ants by sugar in a sponge, or by a few meat bones, and then picking these up with the ants in or on them and dropping into hot water, has been widely published, and we suppose is well known. With patience and persistence a colony of ants may be destroyed in this way, after a time.

Another way, which may be more expeditious, is by the use of bisulphide of carbon. This a very volatile and inflammable fluid and care should be used not

ever, or even more, for we should be determined to get ahead of these flies. We should bear in mind and have at hand the kerosene emulsion and a good garden syringe. The Branching Asters should be planted in a bed by themselves, and the earlier blooming varieties in a bed together; then there will be a chance to commence the attack on the insects as soon as they appear on the earlier kinds. Use the kerosene solution thoroughly and afterwards syringe with clear water. On a portion of the bed try what can be done by use of sticky fly paper, by fastening pieces of it in the split end of a stick which is thrust in the ground between the plants; a number of these pieces can be used, so that the flies will be almost sure to be caught on them. Perhaps if these insects can be once cleared away from this garden they may be kept out, as, according to the statement of our correspondent, others

three inches up out of the earth, and the roots were very much exposed; nevertheless, ninety-three out of ninety-four came out all right. Of course, the tops were killed back, almost to the ground line, but below this line they broke out beautifully in the spring, and made splendid bushes last season; in fact they did just as well as those that were stored in the cold frames.

Notwithstanding these facts were communicated to persons inquiring of me, they did not seem to serve or satisfy them with respect to the hardiness of the plant. But now I can well congratulate myself, this spring, with abundant proof of its entire hardiness in the vicinity of Rochester, N. Y. I was so extremely busy in the fall that I did not have time to lift any of my stock, and I can assure you it was not without many misgivings, during the very trying winter we have just experienced, that I thought of them. But all my fears are now allayed by finding my stock, which consists of 3,000 or 4,000 plants, in perfect condition and all ready to burst into full life and vigor on the advent of favorable weather. With protection a good part of the tops may be preserved; in fact, some of mine by being covered in nature's own way, by the blowing of loose leaves over them and which lodged there all winter, came out evergreen,—that is to say, the stems on them were perfect, with all their leaves still remaining green upon them. This, to my mind, dispels all doubts as to the hardiness of one of the most beautiful of recently introduced hardy plants, *Hypericum Moserianum*.

HERBERT GREENSMITH.

Rochester, N. Y.

* * *

CORN FODDER.—With the prospect of a short hay crop in many parts of the country, nothing can be wiser or more provident than to sow a large acreage of fodder corn. As dry fodder many prefer sweet corn, as the stalks are finer and more readily masticated. Sheep Tooth is a favorite variety both as dry fodder and as ensilage; other excellent kinds are Champion White Pearl, Leaming, and Pride of the North.



HYPERICUM MOSERIANUM.

to take it near fire or a flame. Take a round-pointed stick and make a number of holes with it a few inches deep in different parts of the bed inhabited by these ants, or in the ants' nest if it can be discovered; pour in each hole a teaspoonful, or a little more, of the fluid and then draw the soil together so as to close the hole. The gas from the fluid will permeate the bed and destroy all insect life.

A lady in Minneapolis writes as follows:

I have failed to raise any asters the past three years. They grow finely, but as soon as they begin to blossom there are myriads of small flies which swoop down on them, and in two days they look as if a fire had gone through them; every leaf and flower dead. My Branching Asters were served the same way last year, and only one flower perfected. Can you suggest a remedy? The aster is my favorite, and your Branching Aster is beautiful,—and it almost brought tears to my eyes to see them killed. No one else in the city has this trouble that I can learn.

Our advice here cannot be of a direct kind since we have never had this particular insect to deal with, but we should go right ahead and plant asters as much as

in the same city are not troubled in that way. The garden syringe is the implement that should be relied upon for effective execution on most insects, in connection with the proper liquids.

* * *

HARDINESS OF HYPERICUM MOSERIANUM.

There seems to be very much misunderstanding both in the trade and by the general public with respect to the hardiness of *Hypericum Moserianum*. As it is a newly introduced plant it is not strange that its habits should not be well known. With me it is perfectly hardy,—I have had it for three years. The first year I stored it in a greenhouse; the second year I kept part of it in cold frames, and ninety-four plants I left out in the open ground, without any protection whatever, and in what I consider a very bad place,—a soft, low spot consisting of black earth. During the winter those plants heaved up considerably, some of them being lifted two or

HALL'S Vegetable Sicilian HAIR RENEWER

Will restore gray hair to its youthful color and beauty—will thicken the growth of the hair—will prevent baldness, cure dandruff, and all scalp diseases. A fine dressing. The best hair restorer made.

R. P. Hall & Co., Props., Nashua, N. H.
Sold by all Druggists.

BITS OF EXPERIENCE.

THIS is my first experience with the Fritillarias in the window garden, and I am delighted with them. Their oddity is one thing in their favor, and though they are not as showy as hyacinths, ornithagalum and narcissus, they are graceful and beautiful, and their cheapness puts them within the reach of all.

F. meleagris is the variety most used for forcing; meleagris meaning "Guinea fowl like," a most appropriate name, as the flowers are checkered regularly like calico or gingham. There is a variety of colors, and all of them, except the pure white variety, have this spotted appearance.

The treatment recommended for lilies applies to these plants also. The soil must be well drained and no manure be allowed to touch the bulbs. They are admirable for the garden, blooming early in the spring; the flowers are drooping, hanging somewhat like mandrake blossom, these are larger, however, the petals being long and rather narrow. The bulbs are small and several of them can be planted in a six-inch pot; they are very sure to bloom—not one of mine failed. They belong to the same family as Crown Imperial, but have a very different appearance; the shape of the flower and its drooping appearance being the only resemblance.

Those who have grown Bermuda Easter lilies this season ought to know that if their bulbs are large and sound they can reasonably expect another stalk of lilies from each one this season. The mode of treatment is this: After flowering in the house, gradually reduce the water given until the plant has matured; then cut off the stalk and withhold water, except occasionally a little—just enough to keep the bulb from drying out entirely. After a time a new stalk will appear, when plenty of water must be given; it is also well at this time to apply some top dressing to the soil. I am so much afraid of using manure around lily bulbs that I generally mulch the soil well and then water with manure water once a week.

The second stalk will not be as large or strong as the first one, but amply repays one for the trouble, which is little. The flowers may bloom at any time from June till October, much depends on the time of the first flowering; but they are always welcome at any time of the year. After the second stalk is removed the bulb can be planted in the garden, where it will regain its strength in time. I never try to force the bulbs after the first season; they may do well, but it is uncertain, and when bulbs are as cheap as they now are it does not pay to work on uncertainties.

Chinese lilies in hyacinth glasses are not often seen, but they are beautiful to look at, easy to care for, and, I think,

better in every way. The only trouble is to get glasses large enough at the top to hold the bulbs. A friend of mine made hers at home, and though they were not very ornamental they answered the purpose very well. She took a quart bottle that was perfectly round and cut the top off by means of a string tied around it wet with alcohol and then set on fire; a coffee cup that had the bottom broken out was placed in the top of the bottle and the glass was ready for use. The bulb was then set in it, no pebbles being necessary, and it was treated in every way just as when planted in a bowl. It is necessary when grown in this way to remove some of the side shoots, but as these seldom blossom much it does not matter.

Those who like to experiment will enjoy raising a pineapple plant in the window garden. Procure a pineapple and use the top of it as a slip from which to raise your plant; set it in a pot filled with soil in which there is no manure, but a mixture of sand and loam, or leaf mold if it can be procured. It will soon form roots and make a very handsome tropical looking plant. It can be kept out doors in summer, and does best when in a moist place. Under a low branched evergreen is an ideal place for it, as it receives the heat of the sun without its rays falling directly on it. It should not be removed from the pot, and proper attention be given as to watering and repotting. These plants will stand a great deal of neglect, but like everything else, will do enough better if well cared for to pay for the extra work. As none of my family eat pineapple, I ask the dealer for a spoiled one that he would have to throw away, the top often being as good for planting as that from the perfect specimen.

My first experience with Brazillian Morning Glory seed was laughable—not just at the time, of course, but afterward, when I had solved the difficulty. I had no advice about germinating them, so went at it blind; they were planted in small pots and remained in an east window until the hot-bed was ready. There were just ten seeds, and at the end of six days I had three plants, in two weeks two more had appeared, but though I waited several days longer no more came up. Then I took the seeds out of the pots to see what the trouble was, and found that all were sound, so I poured boiling water on them and let them remain in it until it cooled; they were then planted once more and in a few days two more came up. A few days later I again removed the seeds and filed a small hole on one side of each, planted them once more and waited for further developments. After a short time two more came up, but the third one failed to appear. Had I filed the seeds at first, much trouble might have been saved. I would not be without these

grand vines on any account, as they are the finest annual climbers without a single exception that I ever raised. They are not only handsome in foliage and flower, but they are such rank growers and the leaves are so immense that they cover a trellis or porch in an incredibly short time. They are very tender, however, and must not be planted out until all danger of frost is over.

BERNICE BAKER.

* *

VICTORY.

Attention is called to the advertisement of the new and fascinating game of Victory (spell it with a k) to be found on another page of this magazine. We are informed that the Stowell Mfg. Co., of Putney, Vt., have fitted up, at great expense, a factory to make this game, having several special machines made for the purpose, and will spare no pains to make it a success. A Victory club will be formed and several Victory courts laid out in that village. (The book of rules and description of the game, which is found in every set, tells how to lay out a Victory court.) Some time during the summer a Victory tournament will be held in Putney, and this year it will be free and open to all players of the game. Several prizes will be offered, and great interest in the event is already apparent. Due notice of the date of the tournament will be given in this magazine. Victory clubs will doubtless be formed in many places and at future tournaments only representatives of such clubs may be allowed to compete.

SAVES BABIES' LIVES.

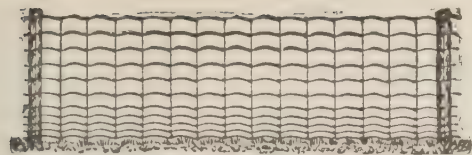
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INJURIOUS INSECTS.

We have lately received from the Department of Agriculture, at Washington, a number of valuable circulars, which it may be well to mention for the benefit of those of our readers who may desire to obtain them by applying to the Secretary of Agriculture. These circulars relate to different subjects, as follows: The Hop Plant Louse, the San Jose Scale, the Army Worm, the Carpet Beetle, the Mexican Cotton Ball Weevil, the Pear Tree Psylla, the Imported Elm Leaf Beetle, Canker Worms, the Harlequin Cabbage Bug or Calico Back, the Rose Chafer, the Hessian Fly, Mosquitoes and Fleas.

* *

THE ISLE OF CUBA.

England and Australia are the only islands that exceed Cuba in natural resources, and the former would not be an exception if it were not for the riches of her prodigious deposits of coal and iron. Under all the disadvantages that misgovernment can inflict, and with a vast share of her soil untouched, Cuba produces, when not wasted by war, about one hundred million dollars' worth of sugar and tobacco annually, and there is a prodigal luxuriance of fruits and forests, while her mountains are reservoirs of minerals, and her rivers and shores swarm with fish. There is no more exquisite feature in any landscape than the royal palms, and the orange trees, never touched with frost, are loaded with golden spheres, and the clusters of bananas cling under feathery foliage, while the green cocoanuts hang high, each containing a quart of pure, sweet water; and where the soil is not a deep, dark red it is so black that it shines as if oiled. Around the coral shores is the snowy surf of seas matchless in color, and over all the exalted arch of the sky, with a delicate tint of indigo, spotted with stars that are strangely brilliant, and the procession of the constellations moves with unutterable majesty; and one sees the all-searching beauty of the firmament, and finds new meaning in Paul's line with the divine inner light in it that tells that the stars differ in glory, and in Byron's that gives the glorious image of womanhood:

She walks in beauty like the night of cloudless
climes and starry skies.

The geographical position of Cuba is that of Guardian of Gates of the American Mediterranean.—From "Our Cuban Neighbors and Their Struggle for Liberty," by Murat Halstead, in the April Review of Reviews.

* *

If Baby is Cutting Teeth,

be sure and use that old and well-tried remedy, Mrs. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP for children teething. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic and is the best remedy for diarrhoea.

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TRANSPLANTING SEEDLINGS.

In the cultivation of all plants, whether they be propagated by seeds or cuttings, a cardinal point to be observed is to insure a sturdy habit of growth from start to finish. With this object in view seeds ought to be sown thinly, and the young plants resulting therefrom transplanted before becoming drawn by overcrowding. It will thus be seen that the exact stage at which the young seedling should be thinned must to a great extent be regulated by the room they have for development. Seedlings which spring up quite closely together must be pricked off as soon as large enough to handle; but when thinly disposed it is often an advantage to leave them until they have become strong and well rooted. Little balls of earth can then be lifted with them, and they scarcely experience any check from the operation.

Very fine dust-like seeds, such as those of the Tuberous begonia, should always be sown thinly, as the operation of transplanting them is a very delicate one. It often has to be performed with the point of a penknife, and merely consists of lifting and laying them upon pans of prepared soil, already well moistened. By placing these under bell-glasses and keeping them shaded it is seldom that water is required till the young roots have fastened themselves in the new soil. Lobelias, pyrethrums, calceolarias, petunias, and many others of like nature give infinitely less trouble when the seeds have been sown thinly, as they are most difficult to handle in a young state—in fact, if sown thickly, drawn and attenu-

uated young plants must be the result before they can be pricked out. Primulas, on the other hand, I find make much better progress if pricked out as soon as the first pair of leaves have been formed. This is so even if the seeds were sown thinly. The reason for this is not difficult to explain. I take it to be thus: Primula seeds are usually sown upon the surface of the soil, or with only a very light covering; the top growth quickly becomes rather bulky in proportion to the size of the seed, or its rooting capacity in the early stages. To put matters right in this respect, therefore, transplanting is necessary, so that by burying a small portion of the stem the young plant is held firmly in position.

Tomatoes, again, are such rapid growers that all cultivators know how important it is to transplant and repot just in the nick of time, before growth becomes elongated. I might go on describing in detail the particular management required by the innumerable varieties of seedling plants, but this would become tedious, and is not necessary, because having given examples of the treatment necessary for the several types of seedlings, it remains for the operator to bring his powers of observation to bear upon the matter, and vary the details as reason shall direct.

In regard to the distances apart at which seedlings should be set, no hard-and-fast rule can be observed; an inch apart is a suitable distance for small plants which are intended to be transplanted as soon as necessary, whereas such quick growing seedlings as tomatoes require to be given fully twice that distance. In the case of lobelias, ageratum, and a host of other plants grown for bedding purposes, much valuable space is utilized to the best advantage by pricking

out somewhat thickly at first, and in the course of a few weeks transplanting again into other boxes or frames, which, with the increase of warm weather, becomes suitable for the purpose. In preparing pans or boxes to receive these young plants ample drainage must be given; a thin layer of soil suffices—one inch or one and one-half inch is enough—and there is then but little danger of its becoming sour.

The lower half of this should be passed through the one-half inch sieve, and the upper part through the one-fourth inch one, the surface being pressed smooth and moderately firm with a board. A little sand sprinkled on the surface is often an advantage when very small seedlings are being dealt with, and in all instances I like to water the soil through a fine rose half an hour before pricking out commences; the progress of the work is then greatly facilitated, and the young plants only require sprinkling with a very fine rose for a few days; then by the time a good watering is necessary all danger of disturbing their position is over. Of course the seedlings must be shaded to prevent the leaves flagging.—*Plantsman in Journal of Horticulture.*

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WAYSIDE NOTES.



HE parson cannot see, for the life of him, why he shouldn't number himself as a lover of flowers, and their kin, as well as the florist. He has an idea that perhaps living in a greenhouse would destroy the taste for floral beauty. Whatever may be said or sung, however, the parson will stick to his beauties. Experience is a wonderful teacher away out in the West, here, and so things that we love, many times we cannot have. But the parson solemnly assures his readers that if they had seen these southern Iowa prairies a quarter of a century ago, they would have concluded that here was the native home of every beautiful flower. So he then thought that certainly the prairie would be the place where much of beauty in plant and bloom would grow, if planted. Nor has he been disappointed. All that stands in the way of success in growing beautiful flowers is a lack of care. The parson has seen little holes dug in the ground, the roots crowded in, soil unpressed, and that was the whole attention the plant received. Many perished, and then the florist was declared a mighty liar. The plant, they said, was no good.

Now the parson is about convinced of two things, viz: That a gradual modification is taking place in both climate and soil. For instance, the corn belt is moving north. Forty bushels of dent corn to the acre is now often raised fifty miles north of St. Paul. The other (March) day the parson took note of the effect the winter had upon his shrubbery. There was not a thing damaged so far as he could see. A bush must be a little like a man, in that it can be acclimated. If the parson be correct, these changes will be grand for the florists and nurserymen. We will have deutzias and altheas in southern Iowa, where a few years ago we despaired of ever seeing them outside the pictures in a catalogue. What a grand botany a first-class catalogue is! The parson delights in studying it. His front yard shows the result of the study. Flowers are driving the geese, pigs and calves from the grounds around the house. In their places snowballs, spireas, pæonies, roses, and a thousand beautiful flowers appear. The parson rejoices at this. It means refinement and all the amenities and felicities of a civilized home. He does not care how humble the window may be, if there is a geranium in it the home seems to have a kindly warmth. "Consider the lilies," said the Master. The parson does, and it leads him to a pleasant conclusion—that where "the flowers appear on the earth the voice of the turtle is heard," and the turtle dove has ever been the emblem of love.

What can be pleasanter in the midst of the dinner table than a vase of flowers, unless, forsooth, it be two vases? Can the parson be better pleased than when on Sabbath morn he sees a lily, or roses, in the sanctuary? As tributes of affection he delights to see them wrought into beautiful designs and laid upon the casket. It seems to assuage grief and a bond of sympathy runs from heart to heart. Hence it is that the parson urges upon his people to grow flowers, not only, you see, for the living, but as emblems of sympathy for the bereaved.

There are but few better flowers for all purposes than the old-fashioned, fragrant garden pink, if we could but have them the summer through. They endure the severest weather we have, with a little care. When the parson sees them he thinks of his grandmother's garden, where, to the best of his recollection, pinks, roses and daffydowndillies grew to perfection. However, the narcissus is hardy with the parson, and so are many roses. Nevertheless the parson is assured that there is scarcely anything but what is the better for rough litter over it through the winter. It is astonishing the little time required to make, in autumn, our posies snug for the winter. The parson covers his pæonies over and they, you all know, come from the cold clime of Siberia.

It would be a woeful mission not to mention the gladiolus in this connection. It is only of late years that the parson became acquainted with their varied and wondrous beauty. Last season, prolonging the planting, he had them all the summer through. He supplied vase after vase for the church and for entertainments. Some of the plants actually

branched and were full of flowers. He plants them deep; they stand better, he imagines, and are finer. Then last year the parson had a magnificent bed of salpiglossis. Nobody realizes the exceeding beauty of this flower until he sees a bed in full bloom. "Why," said many a matron, "what are these? They look exactly like artificials." The good ladies were in raptures over them.

Just imagine the parson at the county fair! Well, he was there last fall. The president and secretary gave him a special invitation to exhibit his plants. Of course he obliged them and, doubtless to the sorrow of other flower exhibitors, he took sweepstakes with an *Alocasia gigantea*, and two first-class premiums with cannas, Florence Vaughan, a yellow, and Flamingo, a red. You see the parson couldn't help it. He also took a red ribbon with some wild asters, which, in reality, were beautiful, although he never dreamed of them taking a premium. So you may well believe that the parson, when he found himself thus honored, walked around quite briskly through that floral hall. Some chrysanthemums were honored also with the blue, although they were not in bloom, but simply shapely and intensely green. The parson was sorry for the disappointed exhibitors. It is proper to state that the judges did not know that the plants which took these prizes belonged to THE PARSON.

**

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Take two ounces hard soap and dissolve it in one quart hot water; add to it one-half pint kerosene; shake the mixture violently for some time or until there is a thorough blending of the parts; then add three quarts more of water and stir all briskly. This will make a gallon of insecticide. Apply with a syringe.



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The Agricultural Experiment Station at Tucson, Arizona, conducted an experiment with ramie last year and it grew exceedingly well. This comparatively new fibre plant is exciting more attention throughout the United States just now

than any other. It promises to become an important crop at no distant day. The one thing now preventing its general culture and manufacture is the need of a satisfactory decorticating machine. The fabric manufactured from this plant is desirable and beautiful, possessing a lustre much like silk. It might be well to try growing ramie in all parts of the territory in order to be prepared to grow it in the proper places to secure large returns when the needed machine shall have been invented.

Small packages of seeds of both of these plants, for trial, will be sent to

those in Arizona who apply to the Director Experiment Station, Tucson, Arizona, and agree to report the result of the trial with the seed.

**

A STITCH IN TIME SAVES NINE.—By having always on hand and ready for use the various insecticides and fungicides they may be employed at the right time and crops saved that might otherwise be lost.

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BICYCLES—HARNESS.

All interested in bicycles, harness, farm wagons, carriages, or almost anything, will do well to write the Cash Buyers Union, 158 West Van Buren street, Chicago, Ill., for their catalogue. It contains a general list of articles wanted by men and women—sewing machines, guns, and everything; all sold at surprisingly low figures.

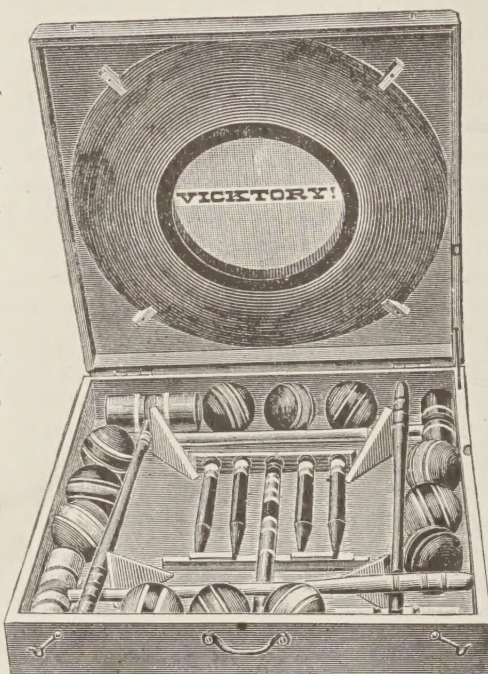
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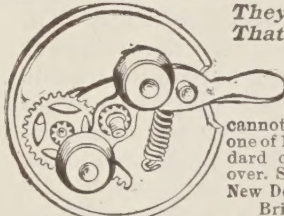
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POT ROSES.

There are many ways of growing the rose, and not the least important, whether for cut flowers or decorating the conservatory, is to grow them in pots. Given a healthy plant from one to three years old, there should be no difficulty in getting a pleasing result provided one takes a little trouble from the first. Roses are easily managed when a house can be given up to them entirely; but among mixed plants they need more care and judgment. In pruning, always keep the main object—to secure good blooms in fair quantity—in view, and at the same time allow a free circulation of air through the center of the plant. Steady treatment, especially at first, is necessary; in fact, one needs to follow nature closely, and allow the plants to come on gradually.

A span-roofed house facing east and west is better than a lean-to or a structure facing due south. The latter receives the full force of sunshine during midday, and very little in the early morning and evening. But when built from north to south the plants have the benefit of morning and afternoon sunshine, and are partially shaded at midday. Once fairly started roses must be kept growing without any appreciable check, or they become weak and liable to insect pests. Liquid manure twice a week will help them, but it must not be strong. A little of it sprinkled on the walls and path of a house is extremely beneficial; indeed, atmospheric feeding is a great point.

Insects are always troublesome among roses unless one takes early measures and is persistent in the use of a weak solution of any proved insecticide. Kill the first few enemies, keep the syringe at work, and you need have little trouble from insects; but once allow them to get a hold on the plants, and it will need such strong measures that what should be healthy growth is not only crippled by insects, but injured by the insecticide as well. After insects, the most troublesome foe is mildew; but if we take care in watering and do not go to extremes in temperature and ventilation, the early use of a good fungicide will keep mildew at bay.

The ripening of wood is another point not sufficiently studied. By the time our main crop of bloom is secured, it is quite safe to place the plants in a sheltered corner outside, and we cannot give them the same efficient ripening under glass. The Teas and Noisettes are mostly selected for pot culture, their delicate shades and greater freedom of flowering

placing them far beyond other classes for this purpose. Twelve varieties that have succeeded best with me are Anna Ollivier, Catharine Mermet, Dr. Grill, Francisca Kruger, Edith Gifford, Jean Ducher, Luciole, Madame de Watteville, Madame Falcot, Madame Hoste, The Bride, and Niphetos. La France, Caroline Testout, and Viscountess Folkestone are grand among the hybrid teas, and I would never go beyond General Jacqueminot in the hybrid perpetuals. All of the Fairy roses are pleasing, and as small pot plants are perhaps the most showy.—*Rosarian in Journal of Horticulture.*

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